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HAMILTON, WALTON H. *Readings in Current Economic Problems*. Pp. xxxix, 789. Price, \$2.75. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1915.

Associated with the teaching of economic law and economic theory is the desire for practical application of such law and theory. To meet this need the University of Chicago Press in 1913 gave a helpful volume in *Materials for the Study of Elementary Economics*. Another urgent need, however, was still felt—a need for collected material upon our vital economic and commercial problems, a desire for information on those questions of the day upon which there is live discussion, financial conflict and industrial unrest. *Current Economic Problems* attempts to fill such a need.

The volume is a collection of many viewpoints gleaned from an exceptionally large number of writers. Here and there the author picks up bits of material which he attempts to weave into a unified, organized whole, covering our principal economic problems. The reader soon realizes that in lieu of a definite formulation or outlining of the problems we have a collection of attitudes toward industrial difficulties. This constitutes the discordant note one is bound to observe, especially if there is a search being made for collateral reading on current problems.

C. E. R.

GEOGRAPHY

DE LARA, GUTIERREZ and PINCHON, EDGCUMB. *The Mexican People: Their Struggle for Freedom*. Pp. xi, 360. Price, \$1.50. New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1914.

KOEBEL, W. H. *The South Americans*. Pp. vii, 366. Price, \$3.00. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1915.

This volume aims to give an account of the people, life, resources and industries of the South American continent. The method of treatment is by topics rather than by the more common method employed in books on South America of treating each country separately. The author gives the first two chapters to South America To-day and The South Americans at Home; the remaining chapters taking such topics as Labour, Literature and the Press, Industrial Opportunities, Minerals, Products, Ports, etc. In each chapter the treatment covers all the countries on the subject under discussion. The author recognizes and emphasizes the differences—socially, economically and politically—between the different parts of the continent, and in many instances attempts to bring out the contrasts found. Nevertheless, many general statements are made that do not apply to all the continent and which will leave the indiscriminating reader with a wrong impression. As is inevitable in a single book covering so large a field on so many different topics, the information is fragmentary and often incomplete. Much more prominence is given to the southernmost countries and the author shows a surer and more comprehensive grasp of facts when dealing with these countries. The information on the northern countries is not only limited in amount, but is in some cases unreliable as well as incomplete. For instance (p. 200), in the mineral resources of Venezuela, silver, tin, onyx—minerals that do

not enter into Venezuelan trade at all—are given prominent mention, and asphalt, by far the most important developed mineral resource, is not even mentioned. Again, the diamonds of Brazil are described as if they were a present-day resource of great importance, whereas they are of comparative insignificance. As a general sketch of the continent and its economic conditions, the book is not without value. It will serve the purpose well of giving a reader a general impression of the South American and his present day economic development.

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REYES, GEN. RAFAEL (Trans. from Spanish by Leopold Grahame). *The Two Americas.* Pp. xxxii, 324. Price, \$2.50. New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1914.

AGRICULTURE, MINING, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

CROMWELL, ARTHUR D. *Agriculture and Life.* Pp. x, 369. Price, \$1.50. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.

The author's aim is to furnish a book for teachers of rural schools primarily which will help them in presenting agriculture. He adopts the scheme of making his book follow the order of farm work from September on, in order that the school lessons may have direct bearing on the home interests of the pupil.

The actual test of such a book is the way it works. It is intended to be suggestive to teachers and is therefore heavily illustrated. It is hard to see the value of many of the illustrations chosen. Covering so much ground, the various paragraphs are often extremely condensed and the teacher will have to supplement the information given ere she does much with her pupils. Perhaps this is intended. An enormous number of facts are given and the volume on the whole seems well adapted to its purpose.

C. K.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

DRURY, HORACE BOOKWALTER. *Scientific Management.* Pp. 222. Price, \$1.75. New York: Columbia University, 1915.

Scientific Management has been written chiefly by the technical man in a highly "practical" way. We have had, without end, discussion of time study, functional management, the differential rate, and the instruction card. We have been waiting for a comprehensive description and discussion of the *movement* "scientific management."

Dr. Drury gives us a comprehensive history of the movement from its beginning in the discussions of systems of pay before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In Part I, he tells us, in a way that is clear to the general economic reader, the history, the character, the plants, and the methods of scientific management. In Part II, he points out its industrial and social possibilities and limitations. It is a painstaking work-written by a man with vision. The chief defect is a tendency to repeat.

J. H. W.